

Message Text

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ACTION NASA-04

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R 121830Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5332

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 1124

PASS NASA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TSPA, AR

SUBJ: ARGENTINE PARTICIPATION IN ERTS

REF: BA 638 AND PREVIOUS

1. SUMMARY: FURTHER DISCUSSIONS BY SCIATT AT INTA HAVE RESULTED IN AGREEMENT ON POLICY OF FULL PUBLICATION OF RESULTS. ARGENTINA MAY PROPOSE TO CHANGE ONE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR (PI). SOME UNHAPPINESS REMAINS WITH SOME ARTICLES OF NASA/DOMINGUEZ AGREEMENT, BUT EMBASSY HOPES SOME MODUS VIVENDI CAN BE FOUND. ACTION REQUESTED: POUCH TEXT OF NASA/DOMINGUEZ AGREEMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. SCIATT FINALLY SECURED APPOINTMENT WITH FERNANDEZ CORIA, DIRECTOR OF NATURAL RESOURCES CENTER AT NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH (INTA) AND EXPLAINED TO HIM NASA'S POLICY WITH RESPECT TO ERTS PROGRAMS (STATE 229735) IN RESPONSE TO HIS EARLIER QUERIES (BA 7861).

3. FERNANDEZ CORIA EXPRESSED TOTAL AGREEMENT WITH THESE PRINCIPLES, INCLUDING THAT OF FULL PUBLICATION OF RESULTS. HE STILL FEELS, AND THINKS SOME ARGENTINE SENATORS AND DEPUTIES ALSO DO, THAT CERTAIN ARTICLES OF THE NASA/DOMINGUEZ AGREEMENT, AS STATED, CONFIDENTIAL

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ARE UNACCEPTABLE TO THE "POPULAR GOVERNMENT" IN THAT THEY PERMIT

THE U.S. TO OVERRIDE "ARGENTINE SOVEREIGNTY" AND PREVENT PUBLICATION.

4. FERNANDEZ CORIA CONTINUES TO REGARD DOMINGUEZ AS COMPLETELY INCOMPETENT. HE STATES THAT HE HAS NEVER PUBLISHED ANYTHING NOR SUCCEEDED IN BUILDING UP ANY KIND OF A TEAM IN REMOTE SENSING. FERNANDEZ CORIA ASKED IF IT WERE POSSIBLE TO CHANGE A PI, AND SCIATT REPLIED THAT HE THOUGHT NASA WOULD AGREE TO THIS IF IT WERE PROPOSED BY INTA MANAGEMENT THROUGH CNIE IN WRITING AND PARTICULARLY IF THIS WOULD MEAN THAT REPORTS OF THE RESEARCH WOULD AT LONG LAST BEGIN TO REACH NASA. FERNANDEZ CORIA INDICATED THAT HE WOULD PURSUE THIS WITH A JOINT DEFENSE DEPT. - INTA COMMISSION ON REMOTE SENSING.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE AIR POUCH COPY OF NASA/DOMINGUEZ AGREEMENT TO SCIATT FOR USE IN SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS HERE ON MATTERS IN PARA 3 ABOVE.

6. COMMENT: FERNANDEZ CORIA CLEARLY NOT VERY FRIENDLY TO US (CONFIRMING BA 7861), BUT EMBASSY BELIEVES ADVISABLE CONTINUE TRYING TO WORK WITH HIM IN HOPE SALVAGING SOMETHING FROM INTA WORK WITH ERTS IMAGERY. WE RECOGNIZE THIS TOO IS A GAMBLE, AS WE CANNOT BE CERTAIN OF COMPETENCE AND DEDICATION OF YOUNG NEW LEFTIST TEAM IN THIS PART OF INTA. THOUGH DOMINGUEZ APPARENTLY STARTED OFF WELL ON ERTS IMAGERY WORK, ONLY PUBLICATION WHICH WE HAVE YET SEEN ABOUT IT IS PAPER HE PRESENTED AT DECEMBER UN SYMPOSIUM IN BUENOS AIRES (COPY BEING POUCHED SEPARATELY TO MORRISON, NASA), AND THIS SEEMS VERY GENERAL AND DESCRIPTIVE IN NATURE. THUS, IF INDEED WE RECEIVE OFFICIAL REQUEST TO CHANGE THE PI, IT PRESENTLY APPEARS THAT IT WOULD BE IN NASA'S INTEREST TO AGREE. EMBASSY HOPES THAT THIS MESSY SITUATION CAN BE RESOLVED IN SOME MANNER SO AS TO AT LEAST NOT PREJUDICE FUTURE NASA-CNIE ERTS COLLABORATION.

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Message Attributes

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